

Virginia Lisnow
1371 Saddle Ridge Road
Loma, CO 81524

September 10, 2017

BLM Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter serves to protest the BLM oil and gas lease sale scheduled for December 7 involving nearly 27,300 acres in Mesa and Garfield counties.

I find it incredulous that leasing of this land for these purposes is being considered after Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of Texas and now Hurricane Irma, having destroyed parts of the islands in the Caribbean, is wreaking havoc on Florida to soon be followed by Hurricane Jose. As you know, Hurricane Irma is now one of the strongest hurricanes ever recorded.

I can only conclude that the BLM must think that climate change is a hoax. How can you continue to enable further destruction of our planet by denying the scientific evidence and conducting this oil and gas lease sale that contributes to global warming and increases the intensity of these catastrophic storms?

If it were not for "we the people" (taxpayers), your department would not even exist. I resent my taxes going to an organization that only looks out for the wealthy few and shows no consideration for the health and well being of the masses. The BLM is not only supposed to manage our lands, but to protect our lands. I do not see this as protection. I see it as destruction, especially when there are other means available to produce clean energy.

Today's issue of *The Daily Sentinel* had an article pertaining to lawmakers pushing for details on the need for more wells funding. You lease these oil and gas companies our land at a ridiculously low cost and after they have made their fortune from those wells, many of these companies just walk away leaving us, the taxpayers, to clean up their sites.

I have lived in Loma, CO approximately 10 years right off of Hwy. 139. How is this additional traffic going to interfere with the use of our roads by our farmers, the elementary school on this roadway and people going to Highline Lake (which, by the way, is our irrigation source) – not to mention everyday commuters? How is the polluted air going to affect the crops grown by our farmers and their farm animals – much of this eventually making it into our food system? As you know, all of Grand Junction and the

2017 SEP 13 AM 10:45
CO STATE OFFICE
CO SO MAIL ROOM
DOI-BLM

surrounding area are surrounded 360 degrees by mountain ranges. Seeing as how we sit in a bowl, we are affected greatly by inversions affecting the air we breathe caused by farmers burning their fields, forest fires, etc. We certainly don't need to add harmful petroleum products into the air that will further affect us and our surrounding habitat during these inversions.

We occasionally drive up to the Bookcliffs on Hwy. 139 and check out the wildlife. One year we saw 200-300 elk in a field right below the Bookcliffs. We've also seen turkey and coyote. Bears also come down into our valley from time to time when their food source is low. How is this going to affect their habitat?

I ask you to please reconsider your decision, in light of the horrific storms we have been experiencing, to do your part in the prevention of further global warming which affects not only our country, but the whole world. Please consider renewable energy resources. This valley gets so much sunshine in one year. Have you considered leasing to wind farms or for solar energy? The BLM says solar and oil and gas can coexist on the same acreage, but one simply wipes out the benefit of the other doing nothing to improve global warming.

Again, I urge you to reconsider your decision to lease these properties on December 7. Please do your part and stand up for the people and our lands that you are supposed to represent.

Sincerely,


Virginia Lisnow

cc: The Daily Sentinel
734 S. Seventh Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

The Wilderness Society
1660 Wynkoop St # 850
Denver, CO 80202

2017 SEP 13 AM 10:45
CO STATE OFFICE
COSO MAIL ROOM
DOI-BLM